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cannot but shudder when I think of Harriotts poor wife. Poor fellow it has affected him much—With best Wishes for your well fare Believe me to be

Yours truly,
(Signed) JOHN McLOUGHLIN.

Fever and Ague.

Many of the letters tell of the fever and ague on the Columbia in those early days. This writer says he could more easily endure a frozen nose at Norway House.

John McLeod, Esq.

Fort Vancouver, Columbia 16th March 1832.

My dear Sir,

I flatter myself that the interest you take in hearing of my welfare is sufficient to make you 'happy' to hear that I reached my destination here in safety. I need say nothing of the Columbia to you who have already seen it. I may however mention that I find the climate very different from that of Norway House. We run no risk of freezing our noses but we are liable to be laid up with fever again and ague now very prevalent here and which more than compensates for a frozen nose. I have found Dr. McLoughlin very kind, he like yourself is an old acquaintance of my brothers. I have been kept very busy since my arrival in the office. We do a great deal of business here, having three vessels constantly employed on the coast, a new establishment called Fort Simpson has been lately built upon the coast by Mr. Ogden and is doing well. We have abundance to eat here, the Dr. has not yet killed any of the cattle, but we have such a variety of other good things as enables us to endure with calm philosophy the want of a roast of Beef. I expect our news from Europe will be very interesting. You have the advantage of us here in being much nearer the civilized world and you of course enjoy more frequent opportunities of communicating with your friends. I shall be very happy to hear from you at any time and I trust you will embrace an early opportunity of acquainting me where you are stationed and how you like this country after your return from civilized life. With best wishes for your welfare and that of your family,

I remain,
My dear Sir,
Yours very truly,
(Sgd) GEORGE T. ALLAN.

Trying to Best the Americans.

This letter was evidently written to John McLeod. It is marked private, evidently because of his expression of a desire to wrest the fur trade from the Americans.

Fort Vancouver 12th. March 1832

Private.

My dear Sir,

The time for the departure for our Express hence for York is fast approaching, & I cannot allow it depart, without sending a few lines in search of you, expressive for my good wishes for the welfare of yourself and family as well as the Governate, you have in view to take into your family; for the various edification of all its branches not even yourself excepted. On this account I would not in the least be surprised to hear that you have been long ere now deprived of that elegant piece of ingenuity your scalp, and every deservedly, if you have been playing hide and seek with this same Governante. But to be serious I hope you find matters in that part of the world going on smoothly & to your wish, & that the utmost harmony and good understanding prevails among you all. In this quarter matters are going on in the usual routine, the Returns of the Department are far superior to those of last year & there is but one evil to disturb the prosperous state of affairs, but that may be considered a serious one— The Fever— which committed great ravage amongst the natives during the last Summer, was still on our arrival here, sufficiently malignant to confine many of our people to their beds, and ever since symptoms of it occasionally appear amongst us, gaining ground as the warm weather sets in, & if something does not cast up, to diminish its virulence, I am afraid the consequence of its fury will be seriously felt. We must, however, hope for the best, and trust to Providence as a safeguard and an unerring guide to steer us clear of the shoals with which we are surrounded. The coasting trade is progressively improving—it turned out last summer about 3000 Beavers, exclusive of other valuable furs, but the loss it sustained in the death of Cap. Simpson will be seriously felt as his experience, coupled with his talents & abilities would give a decided favourable turn to our affairs in that quarter. He departed this life at Nass on the 2d. September of a liver complaint much lamented and regretted and whatever feelings might be entertained toward him during his career in the past of the country there is now but one of general sympathy for his untimely end. Our people appear to be firmly seated down at Nass—the natives are so far peaceable and well disposed and we have in view to extend our settlements along the coast, the best and most judicious plan we can adopt for the purpose of wresting that trade from the grasp of the Americans who have so far monopolized it and no doubt derived considerable gain therefrom. Trusting to hear from you fully and particularly and with best wishes for yourself and family I am My dear Sir, Yours Sincerely

(Sgd) D'N FINLAYSON.